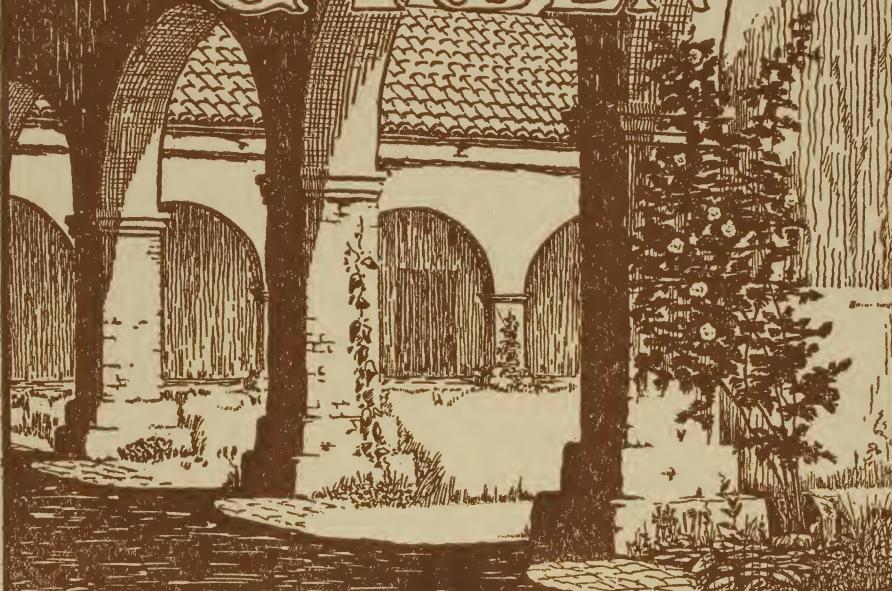


CALIFORNIA GARDEN



Alice Jones
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MARCH, 1917

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Californians Abroad
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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
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Vol. 8

POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH, 1917

No. 9

AS we prognosticated last month some of our would-be councilmen are seeking employment on a platform of "Damn the Geranium beds," but we believe San Diegans have enough sense to ask, "Why not these and the others, and just what are the others?" Apart from all other considerations it is a pleasant and unusual sight to see thirty-two men throwing themselves into the breach to save our city, for the salary cannot be considered as an object to one with sufficient ability to be a Director in a millionaire concern, and that is what it amounts to. We do not forget the women who would thus immolate themselves, but perhaps they hardly realize what they are doing and this does not infer that their presence on the board would be a misfortune, for we think just the contrary. The city might benefit, though the women hardly could. We were given an opportunity, not importuned, to sign the recall petition for the two holdovers and declined, not because we were against it, but not having voted for either we thought it was up to those who *did* to undo their work if they were displeased with it. Surely each one can find what they want in the long list of thirty-two aspirants; a minister for the religious and the other kind for the strictly secular; a plumber or a brickmaker; in fact you might almost play the good old game of tinker, tailor, ploughboy, sailor, etc., of course leaving off the last line. None of this is to be taken as having any personal bearing except that we do deplore any merit accruing to advocates of "Damn the Flowerbeds" policy just because of that policy.

WE have an extraordinary facility for creating unarmed antagonisms and the latest is on the "bird" question. Only the other day we involuntarily got on the other side of the argument to a charming lady whose good will we coveted and then met her at the circus sacrificing herself as we were to give a kiddie a good time and even our mutual servitude failed to create any sympathy. Birds will create trouble.

HIE Southern Pacific Railway is advertising in the local press, and probably elsewhere, something over sixty thousand acres, all its patented lands in San Diego county, for eighty cents per acre. This sounds mighty cheap and ought to be an opportunity to some person with a swollen purse to own an Empire, using a favorite word. If we had the money we would buy it just to find out what sixty thousand acres that was only worth eighty cents an acre could be like and also to get in the middle of it and see if there we could do as we chose for five minutes; say, keep chickens (roosters included), cows, wear what we liked, swear whatever came into our heads, and dig a great big hole. Where is this eighty-cent Empire?

LUTHER BURBANK has married. We don't dispute his right to do this and can sincerely wish him all happiness, but what is moving in our mind is whether the fact will influence his work. It seemed almost indecent that a bachelor should be prying into all the intricacies of the marriage of flowers and trees and officiating at the ceremony, and possibly his garden will be relieved. We have always held a brief for the plant and dare to say that we expect the Wizard of Santa Rosa to find an added insight into the inner plant life through Mrs. Burbank. It is a woman's age; many women have admitted it to us, and perhaps this marriage was just the one thing lacking before the door barring many secrets would open. Shall we some day eat a plumtato or a tomcot originated by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Burbank?

WE expect the garden to have a hard time of it this year, so far as flowers are concerned. It is up against a special form of the efficiency disease when man forgets that he is not to live by bread alone and laughs at the advice of Mohammed when he said, "If I had only two loaves of bread I would sell one and buy white hyacinths." This one thing, and others, makes us very sym-

pathetic with the Eastern prophet's teaching. We are going to waste an awful lot of perfectly good vegetable seed, negligible time, precious water, etc., for we have proved pretty conclusively that it takes an Eastern philosophy to raise vegetables and the natives have for years left this side of living to foreigners. With our recent tendency to believe in hidden influences and psychology we ought to raise our own vege-

tables, possibly with ritual and ceremony, for through them we might take into our systems not merely nourishment, but an influence from the grower and his methods. This idea lends to the humble onion and potato a force that no raise in price could give and should help to reinforce the lagging effort as the vegetable patch loses its novelty and resembles work.

The Joy in a Propagating Bench

By *Orrell Fleetwood*



PROPAGATION is one of the most fascinating parts of greenhouse work. From a tiny cutting taken from a plant and placed in barren sand, there will grow, with the aid of heat and moisture, a new plant, which, when it reaches maturity will be like the plant from which it was taken.

There are four chief methods by which plants are propagated; namely, by seeds, by division of the roots, by budding and grafting, and by means of cuttings, which are usually rooted in sand. The first method is nature's plan, and the other three are artificial.

Propagation by cuttings is largely depended upon for the reproduction and increase of both herbaceous and woody plants grown under glass; and, to a considerable degree, this same method is employed in the increase of these two classes of plants which are grown out-of-doors.

The propagating-bench is a simple and inexpensive arrangement, by means of which cuttings from plants are rooted; but, there is a charm about the process which, when it has once brought the plant-lover within the circle of its enchantment, holds him a willing captive forever.

Clean, sharp sand, such as the builder uses in making mortar; something to hold it,

either a box, pan, or bench in a greenhouse; a block of wood about the size of a brick; a straight edge and a dibber of wood or metal, of small diameter. (One might use the index finger of the right hand).

Fill your box with sand to the depth of three or four inches, press down well with your wood block and wet the sand thoroughly, from top to bottom.

In March, April and May, we take cuttings from geraniums, carnations, rose bushes, begonias, heliotropes, coleus, and other plants of similar habits, and place them in the sand. Make holes with the dibber for the cuttings, and press the sand firmly around the stems with fingers, in the same way you do when transplanting seedlings into garden beds. If you have a glass house no other protection is necessary. If the sand box is in a lath house, cover each cutting with a jelly glass, or the top of the box with a large pane of glass. Keep the whole mass of sand quite moist, particularly until the cuttings begin to form a callus.

When the roots on these cuttings are from one-quarter to one-half inch long, the cuttings should be placed in two and one-quarter inch pots of moderately rich, finely sifted, sandy loam, watered thoroughly, given a warm position, and shaded lightly, until they begin to grow.

FOOD FOR WILD DUCKS

Washington, D. C.—To assist commissions, organizations, and individuals in preserving and propagating wild ducks, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has just revised two of its publications on the food plants of these birds and published the revision as Bulletin No. 465.

The bulletin recommends for propagation, eelgrass for salt water; widgeon-grass, sago pondweed, and wild celery for brackish wa-

ter; wild rice, wild celery, the pondweeds and water cress for fresh water with a slight current; and the pondweeds, banana water-lily, musk grasses, waterweed, and coontail for fresh water that is usually quiet. Along the margin of fresh water where there is no marsh, wild millet is desirable. In addition, a number of other recommendations are made for various conditions.

The bulletin discusses in detail the propagation of most of these foods.

Rose Time Almost Here

A. D. Robinson



HAT a glorious show of bronzes and greens the new growth on the roses is making. Joseph Hill, Sunset and other yellow shades are almost black with promise, and General McArthur is pushing so fast that the first leaves are turning from a ruddy plum to green and the suspicion of a bud is on the end of the foremost shoots. Oh what has this fickle March in its lap? Is it a lamb or a lion? Up on my tower is a flagpole of bamboo and the north wind has filled it with cracks so that it can play strange mournful tunes upon it and it does every time I pass of late, warning me that only in Southern California is there Spring at present. A reference to my diary for 1916 shows that last March gave only one bad day, the twenty-third, when it blew great guns, so I am comforted.

Though bushes from pots may still be planted, and no doubt many dilatory ones will put in supposedly dormant stock, our planting season is about over chiefly because the growing one is here. It seems that our planting period might be extended a month or so by getting Eastern stock which remains dormant that much longer, or possibly Oregon that sends us so many fruit trees, could supply roses.

Just at present no mildew has appeared, but it surely will and must be combatted at once with sulphur and as there has aforetime in this magazine been some discussion about the theory of sulphuring I bag the following entire from an article by O. Butler in *The Florists' Exchange*.

"Sulphur possesses two properties: sulphur volatilizes at moderate temperatures and is slowly oxidized in the presence of air to sulphur dioxide, a gas. To the latter characteristic sulphur owes its fungicidal properties.

"It is obvious then that in using sulphur one must in order to ensure success, obtain a sufficiently rapid oxidization to form sulphur dioxide in the amount necessary to kill the fungus. Now like all chemical reactions, the oxidization of sulphur is more rapid at high than low temperatures. At 50 degrees F. sulphur has but small fungicidal value, but as the temperature rises its potency increases greatly, and at 70 degrees F. is sufficient to afford the desired protection. But while the oxidization of sulphur increases markedly with a rise in temperature it never gives off sufficient sulphur dioxide to be effective at a dis-

tance; hence sulphur particles must be placed everywhere that a spore is likely to be if it is to be effective in preventing growth."

This is the scientific reason why sulphuring should be done in the morning of a warm day.

It is vital that the ground around roses should be thoroughly loosened up to receive the maximum of those rains we hope and pray for, but have become wise enough not to expect, and should they not come in ample time it would be strict economy as well as good rose technique to irrigate. There is no doubt that the first irrigation is delayed too long, for our roses should never be allowed to reach the condition of needing moisture, especially at this very crucial season, when a check in growth means a corresponding lack of quality in our main bloom crop.

A recent bulletin put out from the University, as to the effect of basining and mulching, instead of continuous cultivation in orange orchards in a disease called mottled leaf has a distinct bearing upon the recommendation in former numbers of this magazine to mulch roses instead of so much ground stirring, for the shade and leave alone practice proved most beneficial. Roses must benefit by the lower temperature of the mulched ground.

Last month this article talked about a rose garden, all roses, but omitted a feature that should certainly be incorporated either in our Park system or some public or semi-public garden, and that is a plot to test out the new roses as they are introduced as to their suitability for our location. Now the new roses, unless produced locally like Los Angeles, leak out to us some years after the rest of the country has had them. The Eastern papers are advertising Crimson Champion, Robin Hood, Red Radiance, Donald MacDonald, Columbia, Double Ophelia, etc., etc. Firms like Dreer have a dozen fresh importations every year. It would be comparatively a small expense (not \$100) to get the new introductions every year and grow them in an experimental plot in our Balboa rose garden, and certainly it would be a point of vital interest to every rose lover. The idea is commended to the Park authorities with a little spice of apology for adding anything to their burden and perhaps for suggesting the acquisition of anything grown outside the city limits of San Diego.

Time to begin *doing* about the 1917 Rose Show

Californians Abroad

By Guy L. Fleming

(Continued)

ROM two of our native Clarkias, *C. elegans* and *C. pulchella*, many varieties have been obtained. They are of the Evening Primrose family; are very hardy and bloom for a long time.

Clarkia concinna, of the Northern Coast country, is a very showy plant. Of it Mrs. Parsons says: "In them, nature has ventured upon one of those daring color combinations of which we would have hardly dreamed, and the result is delightful. The petals are bright rose-pink, while the sepals are of a red pink."

The *Collinsia* (Innocence) is another of our neighbors that has found favor with the gardeners abroad. In April this flower will be at its best about San Diego.

California has given four cypress to the garden world. One, the Monterey Cypress, has probably been more widely planted than any other tree, because of its ability to adapt itself to most any soil, and of its usefulness for wind breaks and hedges. Quoting Miss Eastwood, "—; also trimmed into the most fantastic shapes, which are supposed to be ornamental."

This tree is a true Californian, a native of the coast country about Monterey. Goven's Cypress is fully as fine as an ornamental. It is more loosely branched, with the upper branches slender and drooping. Early Bird would find this excellent for his moonlight pictures. In this county we find this tree on Tecate mountain, and it is locally known as the Tecate Cypress.

Macnab's Cypress is a native of the mountains of Lake County. It is a small tree with, "fine foliage very fragrant, sprinkled all over with white glands, so that the tree is pale green."

Lawson's Cypress, generally known as Port Orford Cedar, is found in the northwest corner of this state. It is a tall, symmetrical tree with slender, drooping branches. As an ornamental tree for large plantings it holds one of the foremost places.

One truly beautiful and interesting native of San Diego County, which we have neglected, is considered very choice in England, where it is given a "light, rich soil and a hot wall." It is the Desert or Flowering Willow, *Chilopsis linearis*.

Even our old friend of the roadside, *Datura meteloides*, is given a corner of the garden, because of its large, white trumpets and gray-green leaves.

Three native species of *Dicentra* or Bleed-

ing-heart are in cultivation. *D. formosa*, and *D. panchiflora* are shade lovers and found in the woods of Northern California. The third, *D. chrysanthia*, called Golden Eardrops, because of its golden yellow blossoms, grows in sunny places, usually upon dry hillsides; it is one of our rather rare flowers, though its range is from Lake County to San Diego. For that matter none of the bleeding-hearts are common flowers; and they are such elegant plants from their fern-like leaves to the graceful clusters of pendant hearts that I have often wondered why they have failed to find a place in our lath gardens and ferneries.

And these English gardeners rave over the *Dodecatheons*, Shooting Stars, Wild Cyclamen, of which they have produced many varieties from the various forms found in this State. The southern form, *D. Clevelandi* is probably the most beautiful. It bears the name of a San Diegan, Mr. Daniel Cleveland, who is an authority on the "early day" botany of this section.

Downingia elegans and *D. pulchella* are: Like small *Lobelias* in habit, but more brilliant in color. They are commonly called California Lobelia. Sometimes cultivated for ornament under the name of Clintonia.

One of our fine shrubs, the *Eriogonum*, Wild Buckwheat, is used in the rock gardens of "other" countries.

I came near overlooking two very much mentioned families that are established abroad. The *Delphiniums* are very patriotic and appear in the national colors. The red member of the family, *Delphinium cardinale*, is a native of Southern California. There is a red larkspur in Northern California, but it is a dwarf and without a complexion in comparison with our Scarlet Larkspur. The Spanish have a fanciful name for the larkspur in "La espuela de Caballero"—"the cavalier's spur."

Many fine varieties have been produced from *Diplacus*, also called *Mimulus glutinosus*, bush monkey-flower. The common name I despise; this beautiful shrub which is the equal of any fuchsia should be given a fitting name. In the East, and in Europe, it is considered one of the best conservatory plants.

A much prized plant is *Erythronium giganteum*, the Dog's-tooth Violet or Fawn Lily. The lily-like blossoms are often three inches in diameter, white in color with a ring of orange-red.

I think the California Poppy is appreciated as much at home as across the water.

"The golden poppy is God gold,
The gold that lifts nor weighs us down,
The gold that knows no miser's hold,
The gold that banks not in the town,
But singing, laughing, freely spills
Its hoard far up the happy hills.

—Joaquin Miller.

A small tree that has been heartily welcomed in England and France, but which is seldom seen in our own gardens is fremontia California. Its discoverer, General Fremont, describes it as—"a small tree * * * that blooms in May and June with so prodigal an expenditure of yellow, mellow-like flowers, that the dry ridges it inhabits * * * seem set with tents of gold."

We have a number of species of Fritillaria in this State and all of them have found a place in cultivated gardens.

(N. B. You may take this as you read it.)

The fritillary of this south country is the black, or chocolate lily. It clearly resembles the brown lily, *F. lanceoleta*, of the woods to the north. This last is also called Mission Bells.

"Neath cloistered boughs each floral bell
that swingeth
* * * * * *

Makes Sabbath in the fields, and ever ringeth
A call to prayer."

"Groundless thou art, but as the breezes
swing

Thy tiny chimes, the fairies hear their call,
And troop to dance within their mystic ring
When day is done and twilight shadows
fall."

F. coccinea is a beautiful scarlet-and-yellow species, found in the mountains of Sonoma and Napa counties.

"I kneel to one here by the rocks
That just broke, in its morning of bloom
The pure alabaster box

Of noble and precious perfume;
I will leave this to live its bright day
And fill the whole place with its scent,
While I take but the pleasure away
Its beauty and fragrance have lent."

—Aurelius Martin.

In an English garden book I found this: "Garrya; a fine California evergreen and beautiful winter flowering shrub. It begins to flower in December and bears, among handsome deep-green leaves, gracefully drooping tufts of pale-green catkins, which if cut with the twigs endure a long time in vases."

One species of this excellent shrub can be seen growing beside the road between Campo and Jacumba. It is named *Garrya Fremontii* in honor of its discoverer.

In another English book one of the shrubs of our northern coast counties is favorably mentioned. It is of the Heath Family: "Gaultheria Shallon may be singled out as one of the most charming amongst the better known of these heath allies, with its sprays

of white waxy bells on red stems which last for weeks in perfection and are followed by purple berries if only the birds will let them ripen. The vivid green of the young shoots is in striking contrast to the deep tone of last season's growth."

This is truly a fine shrub, in general appearance much like the *Coprosma*. It is very plentiful along the coast of Oregon, where it is known as "Salal". The berries are very agreeably flavored, except for an occasional one that happens to be the home of a very bitter little spider.

(To be continued)

APRIL REGULAR MEETING

The April Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday evening, the 17th, at the O. J. Kendall residence, First and Spruce Streets. Take No. 4 cars going north.

MARCH REGULAR MEETING

At the March meeting of the Floral Association, held on the 20th, at Mrs. M. Kew's, a committee of five was appointed and given full power to arrange for a spring rose show. Those on the committee are Mr. Hale, Miss Rainford, Miss Sessions, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Morley.

Miss Sessions, Mr. Robinson and others discussed various flowers brought for exhibition and the Garden is promised a synopsis of the discussion for its next issue.

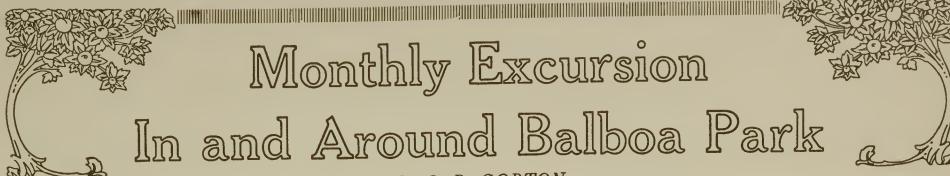
OUT-DOOR MEETING.

An Out-Door Meeting of the Floral Association will be held at 2 o'clock, Thursday afternoon, April 5th, in a canyon leading into Mission Valley. If you want to attend, take No. 2 cars to the tower in East San Diego, where a guide will meet you. All interested are welcome.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD SEED BED AND CULTIVATION

The conservation of soil moisture is the most important reason for cultivating crops. The two other principal things accomplished by cultivation are the killing of weeds which draw moisture and plant food from the crops, and the aeration of the soil.

Too much stress can not be laid on the preparation of a good seed bed. A seed bed of fine tilth—made so by deep plowing, careful harrowing, and fining of soil—is the foundation of good gardening. It is essential for the proper germination and growth of young plants. The soil must be friable and free from clods. A clod can hold no plant food in solution, the only form in which it is available for the plant. Good soil and fine tilth insure an excellent root system to plants. Upon the fine, hairy, fibrous, feeding roots, which are possible only in well-tilled soil, the plant depends for its stockiness and growth. The careful gardener will regard whole garden as a seed bed and will cultivate and fertilize it accordingly.



Monthly Excursion

In and Around Balboa Park

By G. R. GORTON



HE Stadium and other portions of the park adjacent thereto have been the beneficiaries of considerable improvement—in particular the Stadium proper. The automobile parking station at the north gate is being planted with *Acacia longifolia*, grouped near the corners and all along the inside of the fence. *Acacia decurrens* and *A. cultriformis* have also been used in or near the corners, while the groups of *A. longifolia* have been varied with occasional *Eucalyptus globulus* or *E. corynocalyx*, and further augmented with *Pittosporum undulatum*. The terraced slopes inside the amphitheatre are clothed with *Mesembryanthemum acinaciforme*, while on the outer banks the finer leaved *M. floribundum* forms an excellent cover.

The circular plot north of the Stadium is to be planted with white and pink Cherokee roses—possibly to excite the envy of visitors from colder climes where Cherokees cannot be grown. The area south of what is known as the "Magnolia diamond" is being planted with Peppers and *Acacia Baileyana*. Over towards the west on the narrow strip of ground between the street car track and the High School, *Coprosma* forms the body of the planting,—bordered with *Veronica imperialis* and edged with *Mesembryanthemum floribundum*, while further south the *Coprosma* gives place to *Veronica elliptica*, varied through the center with a single row of *Acacia Baileyana* spaced about twenty-five feet apart.

The unusually early frost which visited this vicinity was rather harsh in its treatment of some of the planting in the lower levels. In Cabrillo canyon, below the U. S. Marine barracks, a number of *Eucalyptus globulus* and *E. corynocalyx* succumbed entirely, and others were severely nipped, but *E. rufa* came through scathless. *Pinus muricata* was also somewhat damaged. Nearer the bridge which spans this canyon, *Acacia longifolia* were touched, *A. melanoxylon* and *Myoporum* were killed outright. The casualties among the *Pinus canariensis* consisted of several killed and many injured, but of the Torrey pines nearby, of which there are, by the way, something like twenty acres, no injury was observed.

Adjacent to the Torrey pines planting, another twenty acres is being planted with oaks, both *Q. Suber*, the cork oak, and the native live oak, *Q. agrifolia*, which in years to come should make a very impressive showing—as a sort of heritage to posterity.

A little gulch or "canyonette" (if a coined word is pardonable) about opposite Spruce street, is to be metamorphosed into a Rhododendron canyon, with suitable varieties. The location would seem to be ideal—at least from the west boulevard or from the Cabrillo canyon below. The planting of this shady canyon in this manner will form an interesting experiment in Rhododendron growing in this part of the world.

Above, on the West Drive, *Spirea Reevesii* is in full bloom, and looks very well indeed. Later on *S. Van Houttii* will be doing likewise. The outlook for the "strawberry" crop on *Arbutus unedo* nearby is very good, as this very interesting tree is now bearing its curious and surprisingly strawberry-like fruits.

In the Golden Hill section of the park, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* and *C. cuneatus* are displaying a wealth of blue and white bloom. These groups are forcible arguments in favor of planting more of the native shrubs.

The Exposition section of the park has not come in for its due share of attention in this month's "Notes", but very decided is this not because of any lack of merit, but merely because the writer is not twins. The Botanical Building is especially beautiful at this time, not only having lost nothing of its effectiveness since last month, but having gained by the addition of new material. The fern collection has been augmented by several new species of *Davallia* which promise well. *D. phystidata* has not yet borne enough fronds to warrant an opinion as to its qualities. *D. fijiensis*, as far as one is able to judge, should prove to be a valuable addition, as the fronds so far in view are very delicate and lacy in appearance, both in this species and in the sub-species *major*. *D. ornata* is somewhat coarser, but attractive.

Saxicophylla spectabilis (or *Akokanthera spectabilis*) is a conspicuous feature of the conservatory, several specimens having been placed at the extreme north end of the building. This shrub, which is said, by the way, to possess toxic properties, is now bearing clusters of white flowers which contrast very pleasingly with its bronzy foliage. Here and there through the conservatory *Clivias* charm, as always with their trusses of "persimmon red" flowers.

The *Gloxinias* are just commencing to put in their very welcome appearance. There are a number of very fine specimens already in place and there will be many more before long.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD



If there is any one entitled to cheep about this bird question that has arisen in the Garden, it would seem to be the Early Bird, and strange to say I am not flocking together with the rest of the feathers, that is altogether. This bird question is lined up just as the city is about its water front treatment, both sides ready to fight till the death of themselves and the city because they can only see one side of the shield; but there, there are 31 candidates for the Council who know for sure just how to adjust this, beside three Mayors, so why worry? Armed with statistics extracted from the crops of birds killed out in the country where gardens are scarce and presumably wild seeds abundant, the Bird champions proclaim birds the salvation of our crops and cats the great menace to that salvation, and invite the city gardener to prepare a feast, a bath and a dwelling place for the saviours who are eating up every blooming thing he plants. There can be no discussion based on those crows extracted from country cousins of our city marauders because every city gardener is willing to pension all his birds if they will only stay in the country, but they know better than that, having once experienced the joys of free chick feed, lettuce salad, guava dessert and a host of other good things that a fool or a kind man puts out in convenient places. It is doubtful whether the bird enthusiasts recognize the enormous expense of supporting the linnet and sparrow on a place like mine, situate in a mostly unimproved territory and providing everything these two desire from chick feed to figs. It called for a dozen fig trees to harvest the crop of one, half a dozen apricots to get six half ripe ones and it seems absolutely impossible this year to raise any garden at all. All day long the sparrows sit around and watch for the chickens to be fed, or the garden planted, and where considerable area is involved it is futile to talk of screens and mosquito netting. Year by year the number of these two species boarding on me has increased till at times I almost throw up my hands and say, "Oh damn you, take the ranch!" and go seeking an apartment to live in. Frankly I don't know how to massacre these two enemies or I would go to it with glee, unholy perhaps, but heartfelt. There is mighty little promiscuous killing of birds in general and on Point Loma there is a distinct increase in

many species. A pair of orioles have become a flock and several others I don't know by name know they are welcome to a living if they will live and let live, but a few town gardens must not be expected to board all the country birds all the winter and then have them leave in the summer and sing elsewhere. I wish a bird enthusiast would come and live next me, preferably one on each point of the compass, and wheedle my birds away with their suet sticks and baths and feeding stations. I might almost offer to share fruit and vegetables with any one who would amuse the birds while I was doing the growing of the garden stuff. I lived for many years where the English sparrow flourished and dug holes for nest in the thatch and birds built in every bush, but still they allowed a vegetable garden to flourish. Of course, this was before the High Cost of Living was so insistent as to be referred to just by initials, and potatoes and onions could stalk abroad without an armed guard. That reminds me of a little incident that came my way the other day making me doubt whether our values are natural ones. Just see what you think.

On a vacant lot not yet planted to potatoes by grace of a philanthropic paper, I met a pointer dog engaged in investigating a paper parcel. As I reached him he had solved the combination of its folds and was nosing over the contents. He found and ate a crust of bread and also a most indigestible looking rhind of cheese, but rejected as unfit for canine consumption a perfectly good boiled potato. Now what do you think of that? If we had the sense of a dog the high price of spuds would not worry us.

A potato expert has been and perhaps still is with us and inferentially we have been given to understand that he endorses us as a potato paradise, saying that we have the ideal climate for the growing of them. Might one, without offense, ask what he said about soil. It takes something beside climate to raise potatoes, and by the way, Scotland is producing some of the most wonderful potatoes of the century and its climate is slightly different from ours. I wonder whether the potato expert is putting his specialty out on our vacant lots and where. From this it might be inferred that the Early Bird is not enthusiastic about farming lots in San Diego to potatoes with seed six cents per pound. He is not; he regards it as a poor bet.

Bedding Begonias

By Mrs. Frank Waite



ROM present indications I infer that this class of begonias will be grown more extensively than formerly in and about San Diego, as well as elsewhere. Bedding begonias have been tried out in this locality sufficiently to create a demand for them in the planting of color schemes and for the purpose of brightening spots here and there. In the open garden as well as in the lath house and pergola. I think San Diego nurserymen are doing something towards supplying the demand, in a few varieties, but as this family of plants grow so readily from seed one need not stop with two or three varieties, and varieties are increasing rapidly.

There are few plants that will give such a profusion of bloom, and for so long a period. A famous New York florist says: "A solid bed of these is equal in effect to the freest blooming annuals. They are stunning bedding plants, and wonderfully effective." This florist catalogues seeds of two varieties I have not seen catalogued elsewhere. One is the new white bedding begonia Helene Böfinger, and the other is a fiery dark orange red, Pearl of Stuttgart. This eastern florist also speaks of begonias Duke Zeppelin and Lafayette as "special garden begonias." I cannot speak of these from personal experience, as I have not yet tried them out, but I have tried out many varieties in our own garden and lath house and have supplied seed of some varieties to eastern growers. The seed evidently gave satisfaction, as orders were received for more.

Especially easy to grow from seed are begonias of the semperflorens class. The progenitor of this increasingly large and varied class of begonias is the Begonia Semperflorens, originally introduced from Brazil many years ago. The blossoms of this begonia were white or rose in color, and the foliage, according to the mass of authority, was a clear green, although there is a minority of authority for the statement that the foliage of the original had in it a tint of red. From this begonia and others have sprung numerous hybrids and crosses. The introduction of red in the foliage of this class has added beauty as well as great variety.

The Vernon type was the first to appear with the red in the foliage. At least that is my personal opinion, and that opinion is supported by begonia authorities. With the introduction of the Vernon also came the red blossom, and so far there have been no red blossoms among the true Semperflorens. The begonia first known as Vernon has become

the representative of a type, with many variations as to color, there being dark pink and red Vernons, with different shades of each. With these shades and with the red-bronze foliage, the Vernons make fine bedding plants. They are very thrifty in growth in the sun as well as in the shade. However they are such profuse bloomers and seeders, as is the case with all other types of this class, that it is well to remove faded blooms, and so prolong the blooming period and the life of the plants. When the plants become "leggy", and look as if a good trimming would be beneficial, cut them down to where you see the new growth just emerging from the pot or ground—it will be sure to be there and is just begging to have the old blooming stalks removed so as to give it a chance to grow. This treatment will apply to all bedding begonias of this class. Plants of the Semperflorens class of begonias will continue to thrive for several years in our San Diego climate, if properly attended to.

In planting seed from a mixed packet of Semperflorens seed, such as usually sold by commercial seedsmen, one will get other types with the pure Semperflorens, which is not always desirable. I think the reason for this is that few general florists or seedmen take into account the fact that the Semperflorens class has been developing in varieties, and that through it and other begonias other types have been formed. If one wants a bed of pink, white and green, it can be produced from seed of begonia Semperflorens, while if it is a mixture of Semperflorens and Semperfloren types, there will be color other than green in the foliage, and shades of salmon, deep rose pink, and fiery scarlet in the blossoms. These colors are all beautiful, but are not wanted when one is seeking only delicate shades for a color scheme, such as Mrs. A. D. Robinson brought into realization in her lath house last summer by the use of begonia Semperflorens exclusively, in quantities of pale pink and white with light green foliage. A Vernon or a Gracillus would have been very much out of place in this delicately colored floral masterpiece.

Mrs. Theodosia B. Shepherd's begonia Semperflorens Seashell, bearing a white blossom, with a rose pink edge, and her begonia Zella Fay, with its white and salmon edge blossoms, are two named varieties that are very beautiful. These come true from seed with very little sporting, the pink edge generally being quite distinct. When well grown the blossoms are large and held well above the foliage on long stems.

Mr. George Otto at one time produced a seedling *Semperflorens* that should have been named and become well known to all admirers of this family of plants, for it had real merit. It was a delicate flesh pink and bore unusually large blossoms. I grew it in my collection before the "big freeze." I named it "daybreak" for my own gratification and identification, and I grew a number of plants from its seed, and they came true to the original.

The only *Semperflorens* I have ever known to bear clear salmon colored blossoms was a seedling raised by Mr. Chauncy Vedder. I kept a specimen growing for several years. It was unusual and very pretty, but not a robust grower.

One rarely sees a named variety of a pure *Semperflorens*, but its types, especially the type *Gracillus*, are multiplying rapidly. The first begonias of the *Semperflorens* *Gracillus* type were *Gracillus Luminosa*, and *Gracillus Rosea*. These forerunners of this interesting and beautiful type are of French origin. One parent was begonia *Semperflorens*, and from my experience in growing and crossing this type and the crosses and hybrids originating in our lath house, I think I am justified in saying the other parent used for the original cross or hybrid was begonia *Schmidtii*, or as we sometimes see it, *Smithii*. Readers of California Garden residing in San Diego who have been interested in begonias for several years will perhaps best know begonia *Smithii* when I refer them to the begonia known as the "Waite Seedling." It is identical with begonia *Smithii*, and is very prolific in seed bearing and crossing. From many examples in our lath house, it is easily seen where the color in the foliage of the *Gracillus* types comes from, showing very strongly in the influence of *Smithii*.

Gracillus Salmon Queen is my favorite, although I very well remember the joy I found in the first *Gracillus Prima Donna* I raised from seed. *Gracillus Erfordia Superba* (why it was ever named *Erfordia*, is a mystery to me, but begonia nomenclature is another issue) is, indeed, *Superb*. It is a clear deep rose pink, and the blossoms are large. Its growth is erect and strong, and it has good foliage. It is one of the newer favorites. It is, in fact, so unlike *Erfordia*, both in color and growth, that it is entirely worthy of a distinctive name.

Gracillus Alba, introduced by Burpee of Philadelphia is a good white, and white begonias of this type are rare. *Gracillus Mignon* is a fiery scarlet with dark red and green foliage. The growth is dwarf and shapely, almost as much so as begonia *Glorie de Chatelaine*, the begonia par excellence in a commercial way. *Gloire de Chatelaine* certainly has many good points, but when advertisers compare it to *Glorie de Lorraine* it is misleading, as there is no resemblance in foli-

age, flower or growth. If there was a close resemblance it could not be used as a bedding plant, nor would it be blooming in our lath house at present. I judge from what I see that begonias *Luminosa* and *Gloire de Chatelaine* have been and will continue to be the most popular bedding begonias in the east.

Another pretty bedding and basket begonia introduced by Haage & Schmidt in 1894 is *Erfordia*. It is a pleasing shade of light pink. Its foliage is small and green, with only a slight shading of red when exposed fully to the sun. Its growth is particularly graceful when used for floral baskets. The parents of *Erfordia* are begonia *Schmidtii* and begonia *Vernon*.

A very attractive pure white begonia of the *Erfordia* type is *Dewdrop*, oftentimes confused with begonia *Purity*, the latter introduced by Storrs & Harrison ten or twelve years ago. *Dewdrop* is also known by the names of *Carrierei* and *Bruantii*. Its parentage is begonia *Semperflorens* and *Schmidtii*. It was introduced by *Bruant* in 1883. These two begonias are so nearly alike that only a collector of begonias would care for both. *Dewdrop* is of French origin and *Purity* is of American origin.

Begonias *Magnifica*—not to be confused with the beautiful *Rex* begonia of that name—and *Gromanii*, are new varieties for bedding, and also for pot culture, and are said to be fine. In color they are red. Another popular red is begonia *Bonfire*, and there is also a red *Erfordia*.

The growing of begonias from seeds is a most delightful occupation. It is a delight when great masses of tiny seedlings come true to parentage form, and it is an even greater delight to watch the development of some departure from the parentage form, for thus is produced the evidence that by some artificial or accidental cross during the blooming period one has secured something entirely new, something never before seen by human eyes. To the mind attuned to such developments there is more excitement in a box or bed of seedlings than is to be found in a whole department store of ready-made stuff.

Those who would be successful in the production of begonias from seed must be mindful of three essentials—the time, the place, and the ground. The three are about equal in importance.

Outside of hot houses there is nothing to be gained by planting begonia seeds until the time has come for them, that is, until the weather has made the ground warm. Begonia seeds will not sprout in cold soil.

As to the place, the ideal is under white-washed glass, or under thin, white muslin. The purpose is to maintain an even temperature and a soft white light.

As to the ground, it must be carefully prepared. It should consist of about equal parts

of not too stiff garden soil in which there is no adobe or clay, of well decayed leaf mold, and of fairly coarse sand, all well mixed. The drainage should be as perfect as possible.

Make the surface of the soil smooth, scatter the seeds evenly and not too thickly, and with the back of a tablespoon press them lightly into the soil. Do not attempt to cover them as in planting garden seeds. A good receptacle for this purpose is a cigar box or a shallow, flat, such as gardeners use. The idea is to have the receptacle shallow rather than deep, as only a very little soil, comparatively, is needed for begonia seed.

The perfect way of keeping the begonia seed bed moist is by allowing water to seep through it to the seeds, but when a very fine spray is used with a small sprinkling can, the seeds can be sprinkled. The work, however, must be done with great care or the tiny seedlings will be destroyed, by washing out of place.

The seeds will sprout in about fourteen days, or longer, and from then on the grower's interest will grow just so fast as his new plants grow, and in most cases both growths are very great:

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews

HIS month and next will be busy times in the garden as most everything in the way of sub-tropical shrubs and all hardy annuals from seed can be put out at this time; also summer blooming bulbs will thrive if put out at once. Montebretias, though they will bloom late, Tigridias, a very shown thing, the flowers are fugitive, lasting only a day, but they succeed each other so rapidly and are so gorgeous in their coloring that they will repay the care given them.

Tuberoses should be planted this month. Give them a warm, sunny location, free from winds, a rich, sandy soil and ample water. Tuberous Begonias can be started in sand, also the fancy leaved Caladiums. These are more beautiful than the Coleus and with proper treatment do well. Put in Gladiolus wherever you can between clumps of hardy herbaceous plants. They are more decorative, I think, in this way, where their stalks push up among thrifty growing plants, giving a touch of brilliant color here and there. Among named kinds Mrs. Francis King is conceded to be the most showy, both in the garden and as a cut flower. It is a large, wide-opened flower of intense salmon scarlet, has from five to six flowers open at once and grows very tall. Try a few *Hyacinthus Canaliculans*, Cape Hyacinth, blooms in mid-summer and has fine, white bell-shaped flowers.

Dahlias will want to go in this month. Our editor expert will give advice on this

If the many questions asked me these sunny, bright days, about the potting and trimming of begonias, is an indication of "wanting to do things," I would say, "Don't," because I know from experience that this family of plants resent very much any disturbance of the root system when the winter with its cold nights is still holding sway, and we San Diegans must admit that this winter has been a succession of abnormally cold nights and many cold days—of course, that is comparatively. There is really nothing to do with begonias now, either in lath house, pergola or yard, but just to let them alone, or nearly so, till next month or the following month. The month of June is ideal for all kinds of begonia work. Those harbingers of settled warm weather, the orioles have made their appearance at this date, March 14, and we are glad to hear their "click-click," and to see their bright plumage here and there among the leaves of the shrubs, trees and bananas, knowing full well that with the busy preparations for nest building by these birds, in the palms and bananas, that the summer is near at hand.

subject. I myself have never grown Dahlias, though I admire those grown by others very much. This season I am going to try some seeds of a Dahlia sent me by a friend from Texas, under this description: "From Mexico, single, a brilliant scarlet, fragrant, flowers close at night, plant hardy, coming from year to year."

This may be common among Dahlia growers, but is new to me. Lift your Chrysanthemums and divide this month; take off the newly rooted plants round the old clump and throw the balance away. Plant in fresh soil, well manured, give a good soaking and keep free from weeds, loosen the soil round them every few days till growth is well started—the little pompons and the singles are good for decoration.

If you were so fortunate as to bring your seedling Delphiniums through the winter, put them into their permanent places and give good care. If planted in a semi-shady place the bloom stalks will be longer and the flowers more lasting. A fine planting of the Delphiniums is the most beautiful thing that can be imagined in the way of blue coloring, with wonderful shades from the deepest indigo to palest azure blue, double and single, some deep colored, others with dark or light eye. A good crop is very hard to bring to perfection, as the seeds germinate poorly unless very fresh. The seedlings do not always transplant well and the slugs dole on the young plants. Belladonna Hybrids are the thriftiest and among pale blue varieties, Fannie Stormouth and Clivenden Beauty are the best. While on the subject of good

perennials, what has become of the Gerbera, or Transvaal daisy? We seldom see them now, and in looking over the new catalogues (a delightful occupation) find only one that lists seeds, whereas a few seasons ago all did.

All of your Iris will need looking after. Good, loose soil and plenty of water till blooming time is past. Spanish Iris should be fine this season on account of the good rains and cool weather. Talk about thrills, with apologies to Mrs. Waite, there is nothing like rediscovering a choice Iris that you thought you had lost long since. I had a beautiful Iris Decajii, from China, tall growing, pale blue, with yellow blotches. It failed to appear after two seasons' bloom and I thought it was gone, when quite unexpectedly the other day it was discovered pushing up through a clump of old sods, in the most thrifty style, and gives promise of bloom later on. It had simply been buried. Some day some one is going to find out how to bloom Iris Germanica in perfection here in San Diego. There is no trouble in growing it, but it will not bloom as it ought. This year I have tried resetting it in late summer of the past season, this winter and now in the spring, to see what the outcome will be, both in clumps and single divisions; "toes"

I believe the old time gardeners called them.

Sub-tropical shrubs and vines can go in now. Hibiscus, Acacia, Pittosporums, Lantanas, Daturas, etc., Bignonias, Campsidiums, Tecoma, Grandiflora and Mandevilla are good among the vines, "also Sollya Heterophylla Australian blue bells" should not be overlooked.

The number of these things in cultivation and being constantly introduced is wonderful. China alone has furnished us hundreds of new shrubs and vines of late, not to mention bulbs and Herbaceous plants. Of course one has to limit themselves to space, time, and pocket book. It would be interesting though to take one favorite family and grow every variety of it that could be gotten.

In reading an Arnold Arboretum bulletin there were sixty-six newer varieties of Philadelphus, or mock orange, given, also forty-five Lonicera, or honeysuckle, vines and shrubs—the majority of them fragrant. Also several Buddleia listed as green house shrubs, but from description I think could be grown here out of doors, with a little protection—also the list of shrub-growing clematis was numerous and interesting.

The Vegetable Garden

By Walter Birch



THE planting list in March is a long one, and the opportunities for healthful exercise in the garden are unlimited. In spite of sun-shiny days, the air has been rather unusually cold and growth somewhat slow except for the weeds, which surely do keep growing if given half a chance. Do not allow them to get the benefit of that fertilizer you have so carefully applied, or further draw on the fertility of soil that is already over-taxed in trying to supply nourishment for some plant or shrub that needs it. Keep a fine mulch on the surface to hold the winter moisture in the ground, and if possible supply some sort of a wind break on the west side to protect your plants. If you have not room enough to plant a hedge of privet, laurustinus, coprosma or guavas (the last named is profitable as well as being a good wind break when properly pruned) put up a fence of some sort. In exposed locations the wind is a great detriment to the garden.

Now that the ground will soon be warming up, you can safely plant corn, cucumbers, musk melons and water melons. Golden Bantam sweet corn is one of the best and owing to the tight husk is not much bothered by the worms. The White Spine and Davis Perfect cucumbers are both good, and there

are great claims being made for a new musk melon called the Honey Dew, which is supposed to combine all the best points of the musk melon family. The Pine Apple musk melon is a great favorite with the market gardeners and has been proven to be a good one.

If you have not already planted any potatoes, it is a good time to do so now. Either the Burbank or White Rose varieties are good. Do not forget to put out a few Chinese Giant pepper plants, also egg plant. They both do well and are great additions to the vegetable garden. The later flowering bulbs are now in season, such as dahlias, tuberous rooted begonias and tube roses, and if you want a succession of blooms, and you have already planted gladiolus, plant some more. The begonias will do well in a north exposure that is protected from the wind or in your lath house if you have one. They need light soil, a mixture of leaf mold and sand is good, and must have good drainage. In planting only just cover them with soil, and be careful to get the right side up, the side with the saucer-like depression. They, have a great range of color, orange, pink, red, yellow, etc., and well repay the care you give them.

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The California Garden

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February Meeting

The February regular meeting of the Floral Association was held Tuesday evening, the 20th, at the home of Mrs. John Gay and was very well attended.

A report by Miss Sessions on Arbor Day planting was listened to with interest and a letter was read from Miss Eleanor Cross, secretary of a society at Riverside, giving planting suggestions.

It was decided to have a special meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on the evening of March 7th, but later this meeting was postponed to be held at a later date.

A committee on wildflowers was appointed as follows: Mrs. Dailey, Mrs. Sinks, and Mrs. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson suggested that the Audubon Society be offered space in the Garden columns.

Miss Sessions gave a very interesting talk on "Blue Flowering Plants" and then the meeting adjourned.

WINFIELD HALE, Secy. pro tem.

The Garden—(Continued from page 13)

March is a good month for setting out your citrus trees and avocados. The latter is becoming more popular all the time, and there is quite a bit of acreage already planted in San Diego County and the outlook is that there will be more of these trees planted this year than ever before. You will have to hurry

now if you wish to plant any more bare root roses, as they are leafing out rapidly. Do not neglect spraying your vegetables early in the season. A small bottle of Black Leaf 40 and Bordeaux Mixture will help you out wonderfully.

Debating Birds

Editor California Garden.

Not much in your P. S. to Dr. Thompson's Audubon Society article suggesting a debate "to decide the question as to whether the economic value of the song bird is greater than the damage he does to the garden."

Your debaters would first have to wear themselves to a frazzle deciding what is a song bird. Most of the garden damage is done by the linnet, the sparrow, the sickle-billed thrush and that impudent little black-headed, yellow-tailed cuss called by plain folks the wild canary. Better start by pronouncing these four to be song birds and go to it with the debate on their economic value as songsters, if any. The linnet and that infernal corn-pulling thrush are real warblers, the sparrow has a cheery little ditty and the "canary" has a lively and friendly disposition that ought to get him some economical standing even if he didn't utter an audible twitter. But, a bird, like a man, ought to get his reputation through his general occupation and listed on this standard, these birds are not song birds but professional thieves. Oh! I well know how your Audubon and other scientists go at it to determine the economic value of birds. They rip open the birds, find 10 per cent full of insects and give them a halo as preservers of the garden. And how would it profit me if the damn bird were a hundred per cent full of bugs after he had cleaned up all my lettuce, radishes, peas, corn, beans and baby flowers.

But, glory be! San Diego at last has an Audubon Society. What has held San Diego back is too few birds and too much truck in her gardens. We will now have a society to help the birds eat up the gardens. Folk may go hungrier but they'll be fuller of song.

It's because I'm for some of the birds, hot and strong, that I suggest that the debate should start on the question as to what are reputable, accredited song birds. There's a mockingbird who wakes me up every morning. Seven of my family cats that cast sidelong glances at him sleep peacefully, in unmarked graves. There's a little bird fellow, with black streaks on his vest, who hops closely behind me wherever I dig, snaps up bugs and worms, shows 'em to me, swallows and never says a word. He may not be a songster but his enemies get to him only over my corpse. Then there are others, silent ones, that come to my very feet to bathe in the rivulets where I'm irrigating what parts

of garden and flower beds that haven't been given a prize-fight hair cut by birds, rabbits, squirrels, gophers, snails and bugs. These miscellaneous little birds look up at me friendly-like and un-afraid, as if knowing how I like to have other folks bathe.

Oh Lord! the proposition is to still further favor the birds which the Creator has blessed with power to tell their joy of life and make war on those which are subdued and unheard. We would give to those who have and take from those who have not.

We've got to have wire-netting or cheese cloth if we would raise one blamed thing in garden, in flower bed, or on fruit tree. Let us also have a society and debate things. We can't get anywhere without a society, nowadays, and maybe debate will answer the purpose of the commercial juices we have to squirt on our truck that escapes the birds, rabbits, snails and such.—R. F. PAINE.

P. S.—I'm mighty glad to note the eagerness with which the school children cluster around the cabinets of stuffed birds, to study under the direction of the Audubon Society's vice-president. Every gardening family should have complete cabinets of stuffed birds of the sort familiar with gardens. Corking good way to teach the young idea how to shoot—or to throw stones.—R. F. P.

The Dahlia



HAD fully resolved not to publish any more lists of dahlias by name because there are so many good ones that have to be left out, but in

The Florists' Exchange I came upon the following list as being the choice of a San Francisco grower and finding it contains so many of my prime favorites I pass it along with thanks to the author of the publication.

HYBRID SHOW—General Miles, Black Diamond, Dreer's Yellow, Royal Purple, Dreer's White.

SHOW TYPE—Esmond, Gloire de Lyon, W. H. Williams, Chamberlain, Harry Keith.

POMPON—G. Brinkman, Mars, Pure Love, Emily Hopper, Darkest of All, H. S. Smook.

DECORATIVE—Hortulanus Viet, Futurity, Elsa, La France, Amphion, Mrs. Capron, Mina Burgle, Cream King, La Grand Manitou, F. Grimstead, Jean Charmet, Beloit, Bertha von Suttner.

PEONY—Glory of Lyberg, Nora Lindsay, Duchess of Brunswick, Leo XIII, Myerbeer, Geisha, Pierre Leblond, Phydias, Zeppelin.

IN THE HYBRID CACTUS—Kalif, Wodan, Goethe, Nibelungehört, Mrs. Sheer, G. L. Stillman.

CACTUS—J. B. Riding, America, Mrs. Douglas Fleming, Conquest, Imp. Johannesburg, Empress, Mrs. Stredwick, Pierrot, Countess of Beauchamp, Marguerite Bouchon, F. W. Fellows.

Among these are included about all the colors and types extant.

An increasing inquiry pops up for names of dahlias that are useful for cut flowers, and truly there is quite a difference in keeping qualities, though perhaps more depends upon cutting the blooms early in the morning before the crispness of night leaves and undoubtedly boiling the stems helps. The same variety will keep well at one time and not at another and very few kinds can be reckoned with as cut flowers till well along in the autumn; the summer blooms are hardly worth picking. The old stiff style of dahlia kept after cutting much better than the newer, looser sorts and for cut flowers the little pompon varieties are well worth trying.

I am grieved to find some of my tubers sprouting, no doubt urged thereto by those wonderful January and February days. This is a month too early, as the ground is not yet warm enough for planting, as is evidenced by the fact that no dahlia seed has sprouted in the open. However, where tubers out of the ground have made a real start to grow, they should be planted before the shoots make more than two pairs of leaves and in event of this early planting the tubers must not be buried so deeply as can be done later on, not more than four inches below the surface. There is one advantage to an early planting and that is the longer period allowed for a succession planting so that only those tubers that have definitely started should be put in.

Although a dahlia will grow under almost any treatment there are a few things worth remembering when planting them. As they make an immense growth in a short time they require a compensating development underground. Provide for this by making a large hole. Unless the soil is quite crumbly it will not readily fill in under and around tubers, where these are large, and dangerous air spaces are apt to be left especially in stiff soils so that in these latter it is safe and sane to bed the tuber in sand or light soil. Failure to properly compact in planting is a frequent cause of the loss of plants that start to grow and then wilt and die. It ought not to be necessary to say once more that dahlias sprout from the crown and not from the tuber eye like a potato so that a tuber broken off short with no neck is hardly worth planting, no matter how large and solid, but these can be placed in the shade on damp ground or planted with a portion projecting and used after they really sprout.

It is not good practice to leave or plant large clumps; they should be divided into portions not exceeding three tubers. The division is best done with a large sharp knife or little saw and the cutting should be done from the top through the crown. A good-sized clump with only one old stalk can be made into three or four good divisions by

cutting right through the old stalk and leaving a piece on each division.

I hope there will be many trials of dahlias in boxes this year; pots are liable to prove too hot for the roots. Ample drainage should be provided and some charcoal incorporated with the soil to prevent souring. Rather small and compact growers should be used and considerable pinching back practiced. Possibly it would be best to sink the boxes in sawdust or coarse sand and then the growing might be done in full sun. If at all successful some wonderful decorative units would be furnished. I would use a very clean sandy loam if I could find it, expecting to provide liquid fertilizer at the blooming period. I should not imagine that this experiment offers any hope of success when tried in shade or lath houses or in the sun unless precautions are taken to keep the box cool. Think of a dahlia show of specimen plants full of bloom.

THE ESSENTIALS OF GARDENING U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

The essentials for successful gardening on a small or large scale are soil, water and cultivation. Much depends also on the grower, the season, and the crops selected.

The soil is the storehouse of plant food. The garden, therefore, should contain humus or rotted material in large quantities. The gardener should remember that about 50 per cent of ordinary earth is not soil at all, but consists of air and water.

Water makes plant food that is present freely soluble. Rain and snow water are soft and contain ammonia. The magic of soft water on the plant world is one of the miracles of good gardening, as every one who has contrasted the effect of rain with that produced by sprinkling with a hose realize. Plants are succulent and contain large amounts of water which they have to draw from the soil.

Before Renewing Your Garden This Spring



Ring Up

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Cows and Chickens

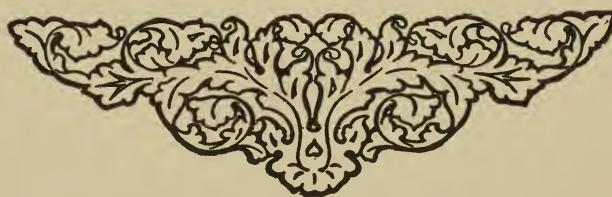
¶ We cannot be funny this month for we have just received a bill for this ad for some months back that we thought we had paid. However there are signs of cheer. Appreciation of Rosecroft Barred Rocks is coming nearer home, having reached Imperial Valley, whence come orders for both roosters and eggs, and to my knowledge the California Garden has not a subscriber in that land of promise.

¶ Misery loves company and Rosecroft Barred Rocks are snivelling with a herd of famous cattle, brought to San Diego at an enormous expense, having just learned that the local appreciation has been the sale of one half-breed bullcalf at meat prices. Truly, the encouragement in well doing is immense.

¶ This does not mean we have sold nothing at home, for we have; but the purchasers were so afraid that the public would catch them buying that they removed their purchases surreptitiously, therefore we don't feel like giving them away and the same protection will be afforded you if you buy either eggs or stock, for we are ashamed of the lowness of the price we charge.

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